



KANSAS

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

KATHLEEN SEBELIUS, GOVERNOR

For immediate release:
August 30, 2007

Nicole Corcoran, Press Secretary
785.368.8500

Effort to reintegrate juvenile offenders gets federal grant

A project designed to help juvenile offenders become productive members of society has received a major federal grant, Governor Kathleen Sebelius announced today.

The United States Department of Justice's Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention has awarded \$997,870 for the Juvenile Justice Authority (JJA) to implement Project S.T.A.R.: Success Through Achieving Reintegration.

"This grant will allow JJA to dramatically enhance their efforts to assist the young men and women leaving the state's juvenile correctional facilities. This will help them return to our communities as productive and law-abiding citizens of Kansas," Sebelius said.

JJA Commissioner J. Russell Jennings noted that the challenges facing the youth released from a juvenile correctional facility are often overwhelming.

"Too many young people are returning to our communities only to fall back into previous patterns of high risk and dangerous behaviors," Jennings said. "Too many are returning to a juvenile facility, or getting caught up in the adult correctional system. This grant will allow us to focus significant resources to help these young Kansans start making the right decisions that will lead to successful lives."

The proposed project seeks to improve the quality of services and to develop a graduated step-down system following release from a juvenile correctional facility.

Funding from the grant will be used to support community reentry officers' salaries, travel and equipment, travel vouchers for the families and evidence-based treatment curriculums.

The Kansas Juvenile Justice Authority will provide in-kind funding to support the staffing, training and quality assurance for the juvenile correctional facilities, community reintegration facilities and community supervision officers involved in the project.

The project is expected to begin operations in early 2008.

To view the Kansas Juvenile Justice Authority's report on Project Star, please visit http://jja.state.ks.us/grantdocs/STAR/Project_STAR_Narrative.pdf

###